

OPEN SPACE / CLOSED SPACE

Post-plein-air exhibition of the Faculty of Painting and Drawing – Skoki 2016

The exhibition is a natural consequence of a trip organised by the Faculty of Painting and Drawing in Skoki from 12 to 17 December 2016. The title concepts – open space and closed space – were the essence of the artistic programme, or rather its formula, which emphasised the use of the ‘natural’ properties of the place instead of going into ‘nature’. The space of the studio built in the plein-air facility of the University of the Arts in Poznań (UAP) inspired the formulation of the programme framework. The season of the year was also important – it was uncomfortable to work outdoors in winter.

Skoki is a place with a special identity that resonates with the history and tradition of the UAP’s association with plein-air events. Noticing and using opposing words, such as open and closed, inside and outside, here and there, provokes artists to broaden the definition of imaginary space and encourages them to reach for various forms of imaging, such as installations or spatial activities. The collective aspect of participation in these activities gave rise to reflections on suggested topics and, in some cases, led to the development of projects with an ambiguous status of authorship.

The suggestions included in the formula of the event – the use of the studio as a closed space for the analysis of stimuli from outside and for paying attention to aspects such as imaging as the specificity of the medium, scale, format, mutual relationship of images and their relationship with the interior of the studio and the processual character of work – were to become stimuli to re-evaluate thinking habits related to plein-air painting and encourage artists to go beyond their understanding of the painting convention.

